



Sgt. Maj. Melanie Karmazzin, from Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, helps the Kaiserslautern United Service Organizations' by handing out a turkey Nov. 18 for the Thanks-For-Giving Program. Thanks-for-giving is an annual event sponsored by the Kaiserslautern USO with assistance from the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern's Army Community Service, Kaiserslautern Military Community Sergeants Major Association and commissary vendors. More than 450 Thanksgiving dinners were given to deserving junior enlisted Soldiers this year.

## ***Holiday programs help USAG Kaiserslautern thank Soldiers, families***

**KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany** – For more than 10 years, Soldiers and family members in the Kaiserslautern military community have benefited from three holiday programs.

Each year the United States Army Garrison Kaiserslautern helps individuals in need by spearheading a toy outreach program, Operation Helping Hands, and providing logistics support to the United Service Organizations Kaiserslautern's Thanks-For-Giving Program.

“We get involved with these programs to show our support to Soldiers and their families and to let them know we are here to provide whatever is necessary for them to have a better quality of life,” said Elaine Leist, USAG Kaiserslautern deputy commander.

Hundreds of Soldiers and family members have happier holidays because of these programs. This year is no different: In November, 450 turkeys, Association during the USO's Thanks-For Giving Program; currently, Army Community Services is accepting toys and gift cards at drop boxes located throughout the community for the ACS Toy Drive (last year, 700 children from 370 families received toys because of this program) and donations are being accepted through designated offerings at KMC chapels to provide families with Commissary food vouchers and Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift certificates.

“It's a way for us to say ‘thank you’ to [Soldiers and family members] for what they are doing,” said Doug Wooton, garrison staff chaplain.

*(Information provided by Christine June, U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern)*